

Welcome to Idaho Reads! VISTA 101

*Promoting Kindergarten through
Third grade literacy
through volunteerism and
community involvement...*

Idaho Reads! VISTA History

- Idaho's State Department of Education focus on literacy
 - The Goals of Dr. Marilyn Howard,
Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - *Every Child Learning Every Day*
 - *Dinner and a Book*

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Collaborations:

- Other various programs within the State Department of Education
 - Title I A , Migrant Education, 21st Century Schools, Reading First, Even Start, Title III, etc
- Other agencies who are also supporting or advocating for family literacy services
 - Corporation for National and Community Service
 - Idaho's State Library
 - Idaho State Food Bank
 - Idaho Power

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- ISDE applies to CNCS for 25 Americorp*VISTA member slots for service in literacy programs that serve children Kindergarten through 3rd grade.
- The goals of this project are:
 - To ensure every child is reading successfully by third grade through parent and community involvement; and
 - To support statewide efforts to break cycles of poverty and illiteracy.

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ISDE Request for Proposals,

- Idaho Reads! VISTA member slots are then awarded to a school or program via the RFP which is released annually on February 1st.

Eligible applicants,

- Idaho elementary schools containing a K-3 grade span that qualify for Title I services, and/or literacy programs serving low poverty children in Kindergarten through third grade.

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■ Members:

- Recruit, and assist in the training and management of literacy volunteers
- Identifying Community Resources
- Creating a bank of family literacy events
- Collecting and distributing books
- Build reading programs for the Summer
- Promoting volunteerism
 - National Days of Service
 - Connecting service to academic learning

Idaho Reads! VISTAs...

- Members are:
 - *Volunteers In Service to America*: a member may not receive monetary compensation for services rendered during their time as a VISTA member.
 - Serve on a one year basis of a 3 year plan to help improve literacy in your school and create bridges in your community

Idaho Reads! VISTAs...

- **Members are**

- Domestic Peace Corp; neither full or part-time employment nor full time enrollment in an educational institution is permitted.
 - VERY modest living allowance
 - 10 Sick days, 10 Personal days
 - Medical Insurance

Idaho Reads! VISTAs...

■ **Members are:**

- Not a Employee of your district
 - They are assigned to Idaho's State Department of Education
 - You receive their service in exchange for providing on-site supervision of the project

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■ **Members:**

- Do not provide direct services such as tutoring or Para educators duties.
- Cannot fill in nor substitute
 - Violation of FEDERAL LAW
 - Will result in the removal of the project
- Are not expected to be content area experts nor child psychologists

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- Local supervision and support- Host Site
 - Recruit VISTA member
 - On-going assessment of progress
 - Troubleshooting
 - Fiscal accountability
 - Planning, materials, training (release time)
 - Cost-Share Partnership , small cost for a full time (40 hr) person

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ISDE and CNCS cover the cost of a series of benefits and services for the members and your organization.

- Payroll services: Members receive their stipend checks directly from AmeriCorps*VISTA.
- Training in project management and leadership for members and project supervisor.
- Child care for income-eligible members
- \$4,725 education award or \$1,200 post-service stipend.

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Your \$500.00 Cost-share Partnership is a low-cost way to get a full time AmeriCorps*VISTA members who will serve with your school/organization

In finding funding for your organization's share of the partnership, consider approaching:

- Community foundations;
- State government funding sources;
- Municipalities and school districts;
- Colleges and universities; and
- Local corporations.

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Local Supervisor

- Quarterly reports
 - Document progress
 - Signatures of both the member and the local supervisor
 - Timely filing and complete, accurate information influence continuation of projects

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- Required by us:
 - Release time, ok with you, approved by me
 - Quarterly reports (require your signature)
 - Region meetings
 - Additional and on-going training
 - Additional duties from our office may arise

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- **Required by us:**

- Site visits

- Both the local site supervisor and the *Idaho Reads! VISTA* member are required to attend and participate

- This is your opportunity to showcase your project

- Provide evidence of your good work

- Treasure Hunt

- Technical Assistance

Bonus

- Site specific legacy project
- How to documentation for planned Family Events
- Potential future district employee....

Grant Proposal: What does it look like?

- Standard Transmittal Form (download from the website)
 - Readiness Concept Paper
 - Project Vision & Description
 - Principal's Letter of Commitment
 - Service Plan
 - Assignment Description
 - Signed Assurances

Reminders

- Eligible Applicants:
 - Idaho Elementary Schools with a K-3 grade span
 - Qualify for Title I services
- Active Participation in National Days of Service
 - Make a Difference Day—October
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day—January
 - National Volunteer Week—April
 - National Youth Volunteer Day—April

VISTA Volunteers

- 18 years of age or older
- Pledge themselves to serve on a full-time basis for one year
- Increase the capacity of low-income people to improve the conditions of their own lives
- Recruit members of the community to volunteer to solve literacy-related problems
- Serve as a mechanism to recruit & train volunteers who will provide those services

Expectations of the District/School

- Resource Development & Support
 - Training
 - Ongoing supervision & guidance with access to host personnel
 - Work Space
 - Computer
 - Telephone
 - Materials to design/implement program
 - Provisions for volunteers

Applying for 2nd & 3rd Years

- Detail exactly why another year is needed
- What the extended goals will be
- How this will build on the project
- A thorough explanation as to why any goals of the original application were unable to be met

Sample Service Plan

<i>Idaho Reads!</i> – VISTA PROJECT SERVICE PLAN			Page #
District # & Name:		Building Name:	
GOAL:			
A. Project Goals and Objectives	B. Timeline	C. Resources	D. Sustainability

How wonderful it is that nobody
need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the
world.

~ Anne Frank

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